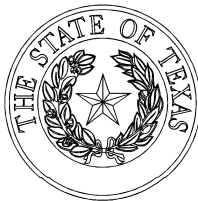


Paul Hudson  
Chairman

Julie Caruthers Parsley  
Commissioner

Barry T. Smitherman  
Commissioner

W. Lane Lanford  
Executive Director



## *Public Utility Commission of Texas*

September 28, 2007

Marlene H. Dortch  
Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S. W., Room TW-A306  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Karen Majcher  
Vice President, High Cost & Low Income Division  
Universal Service Administrative Company  
2000 L Street, N.W., Suite 200  
Washington, D.C. 20036

**RE: State Rate Comparability Review and Certification for Non-Rural ILECs,  
CC Docket No. 96-45**

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To the Filing Representatives:

Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.316,<sup>1</sup> the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Texas PUC) certifies that the rural residential rates charged by SBC Texas and Verizon<sup>2</sup> as of July 1, 2007 were below the Federal Communication Commission's nationwide urban benchmark of \$34.58.

Therefore, for purposes of § 254(b)(3) of the Federal Telecommunications Act, the Texas PUC certifies that the rural residential rates charged by SBC Texas and Verizon are lower than urban rates nationwide, and therefore they satisfy the "reasonable comparable" standard.

If there are any questions regarding this matter, please contact Liz Kayser in our Communications Industry Oversight Division, (512) 936-7390.

Respectfully submitted,

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<sup>1</sup> See *In re Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service*, CC Docket No. 96-45, Order on Remand, Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, and Memorandum Opinion and Order, Appendix A (rel. Oct. 27, 2003).

<sup>2</sup> SBC Texas and Verizon are the two non-rural incumbent local exchange carriers (ILECs) in Texas.

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Pam Whittington  
Division Director,  
Communications Industry Oversight Division